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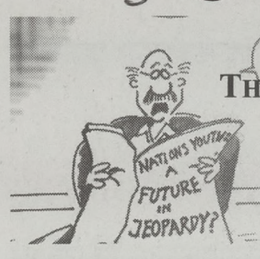
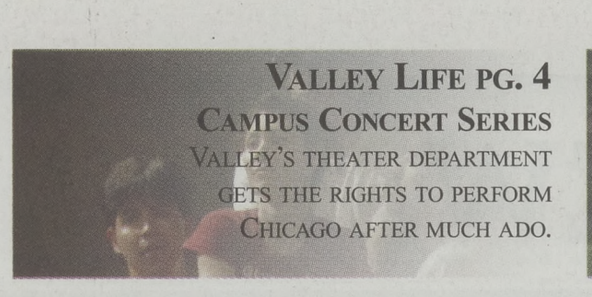
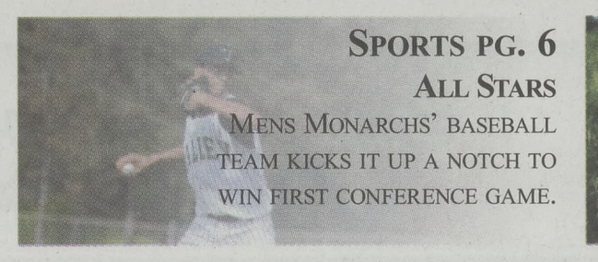


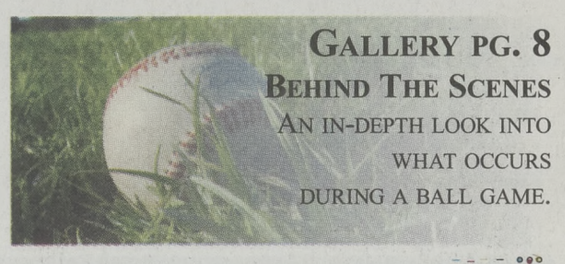
OPINION PG. 3
THE NEXT GENERATION
HAVE KIDS EVER LISTENED TO THEIR PARENTS?



VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES
VALLEY'S THEATER DEPARTMENT GETS THE RIGHTS TO PERFORM CHICAGO AFTER MUCH ADO.



SPORTS PG. 6
ALL STARS
MENS MONARCHS' BASEBALL TEAM KICKS IT UP A NOTCH TO WIN FIRST CONFERENCE GAME.



GALLERY PG. 8
BEHIND THE SCENES
AN IN-DEPTH LOOK INTO WHAT OCCURS DURING A BALL GAME.

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 65, ISSUE NO. 7 | MARCH 2, 2005 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Angelides Visits Valley

■State Treasurer has sights set on Arnold's office.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

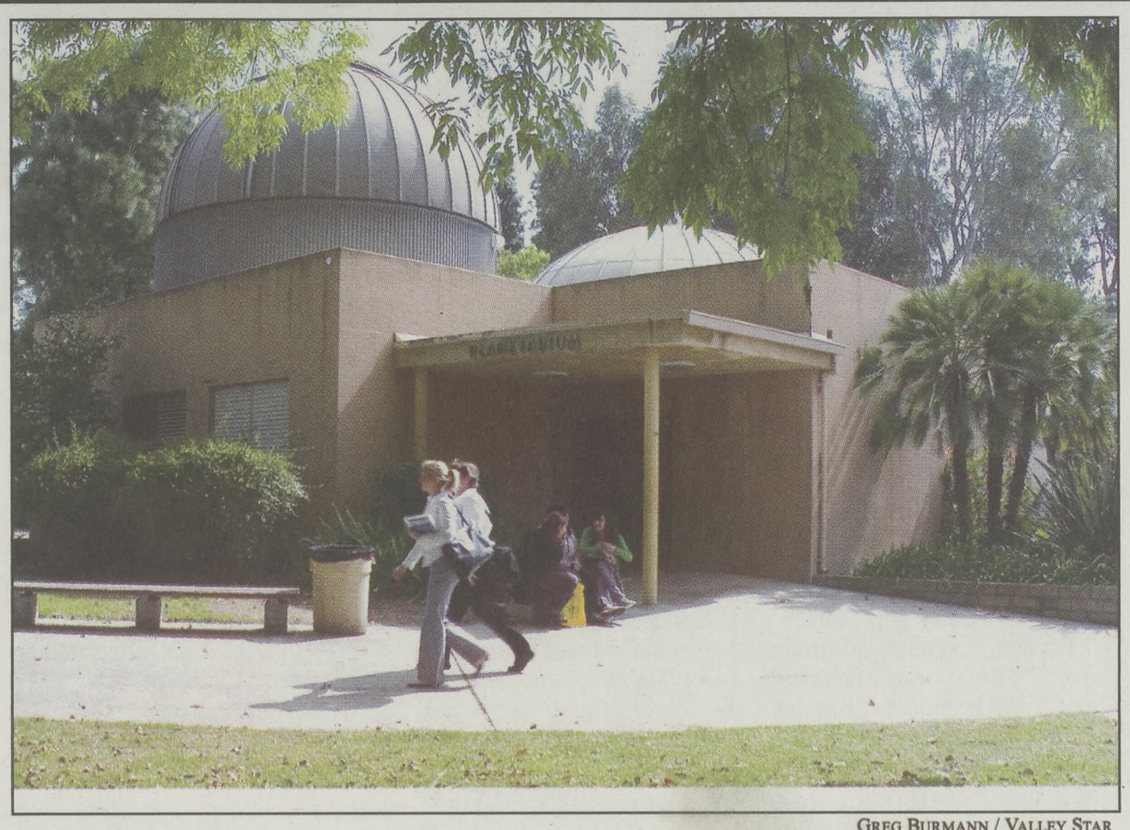
California State Treasurer and gubernatorial hopeful Phil Angelides visited Valley College Saturday with the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley.

Angelides spoke to a packed Monarch Hall about the "wrong turns [Gov. Arnold] Schwarzenegger has taken" regarding California colleges.

"Schwarzenegger is not prepared to ask the wealthiest of

see *Angelides* page 7

KHADIJAH ABDULLAH / VALLEY STAR
TAKING CHARGE - 2005 gubernatorial hopeful Phil Angelides headed a democratic assembly Saturday.



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING - Valley College's Planetarium is sporting a state-of-the-art Spitz SciDome courtesy of a $200,000 NASA grant.

NASA Upgrades Planetarium

■ Valley College's astronomy students and community members will soon enjoy the new facilities provided by NASA.

BY WILLIAM HINES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College earth science students and community members alike have a lot to be excited about. On Friday, March 11, the college's planetarium will resume its public programs beginning with the unveiling of our the new NASA-funded SciDome.

"Our new planetarium is state-of-the-art," said Astronomy Professor David Falk. "The difference between our planetarium and others in the area is that ours is made for educational purposes,"

The SciDome is a digital planetarium projector that was purchased by the college as part of the $300,000 grant awarded to the department by NASA in order to help improve the anthropology and earth science department's facilities and curriculum.

The grant money was used to upgrade Valley's existing planetarium, which was previously using equipment that predated the 1969 moon landing.

The upgrade makes more classes and events available

see *Planetium* page 2

Valley Sponsors Blood Drive

■ The Valley College health center is offering a blood drive not benifits all who participates..

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley College Health center is teaming up with the American Red Cross to organize an on-campus blood drive in Monarch Hall, March 16.

"All services at the LAVC Student Health Center are provided at little or no cost to currently enrolled students," according to Physician Assistant Sonia Nodal. "There is a full-time physician assistant on staff and a medical internist."

Nodal explained that students' tuition fees include a health fee that covers the services provided by the center.

The center, located in the North Gym, offers free and low-cost physical and psychological treatment. In partnership with the Valley Presbyterian Hospital, the center holds monthly events that support and educate the community, such as breast cancer awareness, free HIV and STD screenings and blood drives.

The center is ready to help an array of student health problems. Rounding out the staff is clinical psychologist Dr. Carl King, nurse practitioner Judy Holton, medical doctor Dr. Marie-There Pean, registered nurse Barbara Perlman and medical assistant Brandy Rodriguez.

All participants in the drive will be entered in a region-wide drawing for a free weekend get-away to Palm Springs. Those interested in donating are encouraged to call the Student Health Center to set up an appointment at 818-947-2918, or come to Monarch Hall between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 16.

Big Monk on Campus

■Spiritual waters run deep for this dedicated Valley student with a drive for excellence.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
NEWS EDITOR

His brightly-colored robes never fail to draw attention to Veedagama Hemaratana, the only ordained Buddhist monk on campus.

"People often ask about my robes, wondering if I'm too poor to buy clothes," said Hemaratana, a 32-year-old Sri Lanka native. "I tell them 'No, I am a monk and I have to wear this,' then they understand."

Hemaratana considers himself blessed to be living in the United States. "In my country monks are not allowed to drive," said Hemaratana who now enjoys the daily commute from his monastery in Sun Valley. "I never drove before. I had to take 12 or 30 lessons," the monk explained with a laugh.

Leaving behind his parents and brother, Hemaratana immigrated to California in 2001. He says he doesn't get too homesick though, because he keeps busy and has three other monks for roommates who are also from Sri Lanka.

"I pray every morning at the temple at 6 a.m.," said Hemaratana. "The temple has many meditation classes taught by monks."

Fluent in the ancient languages of Pali and Sanskrit, this psychology major first entered the Buddhist priesthood at 13. "I moved into the temple and studied so many books. I read too many books," said Hemaratana. "I was called a 'Samanera.' After 20 years I had to [achieve] a higher ordination to become a monk." As an important rite of passage into monkhood, his

see *Monk* page 7

ASL Rising in Popularity

■American Sign Language classes could satisfy transfer requirements, but Valley doesn't offered it.

BY ANNA GOLDBERG
OPINION EDITOR

Some community college foreign language classrooms are silent as students replace more common disciplines like Spanish, French and Italian with American Sign Language to fulfill university requirements.

"Students can definitely use ASL to fulfill both the IGETC area 6 and the area C requirements for transfer to both the USC and CSU system," said Valley College Professor of Counseling Michael Gold.

Unfortunately, of the nine community colleges in the Los Angeles District only East Los Angeles College and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College offer both ASL I and II and Los Angeles Pierce College is the only provider of a 16-course extended program.

When asked why Valley was not offering ASL to its students

see *ASL* page 7

Education: the Key to a Good Future

■ Higher learning is crucial, yet Californians lag in college degrees.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

If you think a college education won't make a difference in your life, compare a 2003 national poll of unemployment rates for high school grads with no college – 14 percent – to the rate that same year for college graduates – 7 percent, according to U. S. Department of Labor statistics.

"I feel very strongly about higher education; most of today's jobs aren't open to high school graduates," said Jeanne Rubin, executive assistant to the Valley College president. "Employers believe that someone who doesn't pursue a higher degree isn't someone who can set and accomplish their goals."

Californians are earning bachelor's degrees at lower rates than others nationally, according to a study released by the Public Policy Institute of California.

"It's hard to get a college education," said business major Audon Martinez. "Schools are getting more expensive."

According to national data from the 2003 Annual Social and Economic Population Survey, 85 percent of adults age 25 and older had completed high school, 27 percent had completed college. Compare that to the statistics in Valley College's Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual, which indicate that 20 percent of young adults in California completed high school and seven percent completed college.

Less-skilled workers have fewer choices and there has been a steady decline of more than 2.5 million manufacturing jobs during the past four years, according to labor statistics.

"The labor force is shrinking and the economy is slowing," said University of Maryland Economics professor Peter Morici. "The primary culprit is the growing trade deficit."

Although reports indicate that service jobs have increased, many new jobs are in health and education services, areas that require at least some post high school training.

"The work place is becoming more complex," Rubin said. "The demands on one's skill level are becoming much higher."

Most persons who forgo college fall into jobs by chance, according to research agency Public Agenda, and half of the respondents who didn't attend college said theirs was "just a job to get by". Only 15 percent viewed their jobs as promising careers.

"Lots of people aren't academically inclined and there are still lots of ways to earn a living," said Public Agenda Senior Vice President Jean Johnson, "But these people are on a very hit-or-miss road."

El Pollo Loco employee Angel Alvarez agrees on the value of a college education, but has other responsibilities and wants to work to earn money for his family.

"I didn't go to college because my family couldn't afford it," said Alvarez. "My grades were too low to get a scholarship so I had to put college on hold. I do plan on going someday."

Alvarez believes his financial situation will improve when he gets older, but experts warn

see *Income* page 7

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR
A TIME FOR MEDITATION - Veedagam Hemaratana is Valley College's only ordained Buddhist monk.

THIS WEEK IN NEWS:

MUDERER CAPTURED

After 30 long years of searching, Wichita police have finally arrested the man they believe to be the self-named BTK (Bind, Torture, Kill) killer.

CHILD HEALTH

Approximately 1 in 166 children born are diagnosed with Autism, making it the second most common childhood mental disorder. Experts are debating over whether an environmental factor is causing the increase of autism cases or its just being better diagnosed.

POLITICS

According to a recent study, 6 out of 10 Americans say we are ready for a female president. While no official confirmation has been announced, questions have surfaced again over the possibility of Hillary Clinton running for office in 2008.

CAMPUS EYE

FEATURED CLUB:

PSYCH CLUB:
Offers free snacks, drinks, movies and feature guest speakers. Meets every Thursday, 2:30 p.m. at BSC 105.

THINK TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CAREER TRANSFER CENTER AT (818) 947-2646

BUS TRIP TO CSULA:
Friday, March 11, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Interested students can sign-up at the Career Transfer Center, a $5 deposit is required.

TRANSFER FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP:
Monday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. at Career Transfer Center and Tuesday, March 15 at Career Transfer Center.

CAREER/ TRANSFER CENTER MARCH REPRESENTATIVE VISITS:

UNIVERSITIES OF CALIFORNIA:

UCLA:
Wednesday, March 2, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and Monday, March 14, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Career Transfer Center.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES:

CSULA:
Tuesday, March 8, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Career Transfer Center and Friday, March 11 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

CSUN:
Tuesday, March 8, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. at Career Transfer Center, Monday, March 7, 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. at Career Transfer Center, Monday, March 14, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m./ 5 p.m.- 7 p.m. at Career Transfer Center and Tuesday, March 15, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m at Career Transfer Center.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES:

MOUNT ST. MARY'S:
Thursday, March 10, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. at Career Transfer Center.

UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM:
10 a.m.- 12 p.m. at Monarch Square.

ON-GOING WORKSHOPS:

MAJOR/ CAREER OPTIONS WORKSHOP:
Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. at the Career Transfer Center and Thursday, 1 p.m. at Career Transfer Center.

'Provocative' Series Brings Notable Speakers to the Valley

■ Air America radio host and LA Times Columnist bring fresh prespectives to the San Fernando Valley.

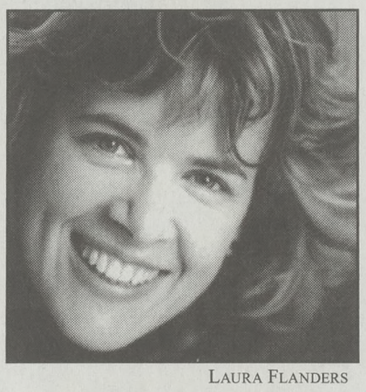
BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Valley Cities Jewish Community Center is welcoming Air America radio host Laura Flanders and LA Times columnist Robert Scheer to the center's second installment of the Provocative Speakers series March 15.

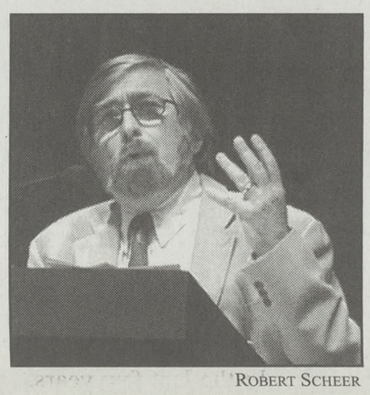
Being held on the third Tuesday every month, the series, now in its second year, has brought many accomplished writers, speakers and noted personalities such as Arianna Huffington, Scott Ritter and John Dean to the Valley, to stimulate the minds of community members.

Conversation between Flanders and Scheer is slated. Both best-selling authors will be addressing a number of topics, including the limited range of opinion in mainstream media.

"I have a problem with democrats saying the election was based on morals," said Flanders. "It's not true."



LAURA FLANDERS



ROBERT SCHEER

Flanders, author of "BUSHWOMEN: Tales of a Cynical Species," condemns last year's presidential candidates for not reaching out to young voters. "Politicians would be better off listening to what young people have to say rather than just asking for their vote every four years."

Flanders' syndicated radio show, "The Laura Flanders Show," on Air America, has just returned for a second year and she looks forward to speaking with Scheer at the series.

"Robert is an intelligent guy and is very interested in what's affecting young people today."

Scheer, author of six books, including "The 5 Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq," spoke at the series last year.

After the Downpour

■ Cleanup is underway after last month's rainfall.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

Valley College's campus escaped major damage as some of California's heaviest recorded rainstorms slammed the southland.

"We were pretty lucky," said Facilities Manager Tom Lopez. "Other schools had transformers blown and buildings flooded."

Last week's showers brought nine inches of rain to Los Angeles, according to local weather reports. Although Valley didn't suffer any serious damage, the campus was not immune to the destructive effects of the deluge.

The gymnastics roof leaked, the south gym roof is deteriorating, water got into the cafeteria conference room and potholes were discovered throughout campus, said Lopez.

As the rain poured down, Valley's maintenance team did what they could to minimize the damaage.

"As soon as we got the call about the leaks, we went over and put plastic on the walls and brought buckets and trash cans," said General Foreman, Jose Ornelas. "There was a little damage to the ceilings, but no real damage inside the buildings."

The leaks are fixed, but will eventually need to be replaced.

"We patched the roofs temporarily, but they are too far gone," said Ornelas. "It was hard to patch because the roof is made of rock and it's hard to see where the actual leak is."

Students around campus weren't surprised at the damage.

"It's going to happen," said Valley student Kathy Kershaw. "These buildings are old, what can you do?"

CAMPUS CRIME

Student Shoots Off Threats

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
DESIGN EDITOR

Threat

A dispute over one student's tardiness in dropping his class turned ugly for a student worker at Valley College's Admissions and Records Office on Feb. 23.

According to the victim, she recieved a phone call at 10:30 a.m. from an individual who claimed he forgot to drop his class and inquired whether he would lose his tuition money.

The victim informed the suspect that he would have to fill out a petition to be reviewed by a supervisor.

This angered the suspect who began to verbally bash the victim, resorting to profanity, vulgar language and threats of shooting everyone at Admissions and Records.

After hanging up with the suspect, the bewildered victim called campus police. The victim was unable to get the suspect's information according to police reports. The suspect remains at large.

Vandalism

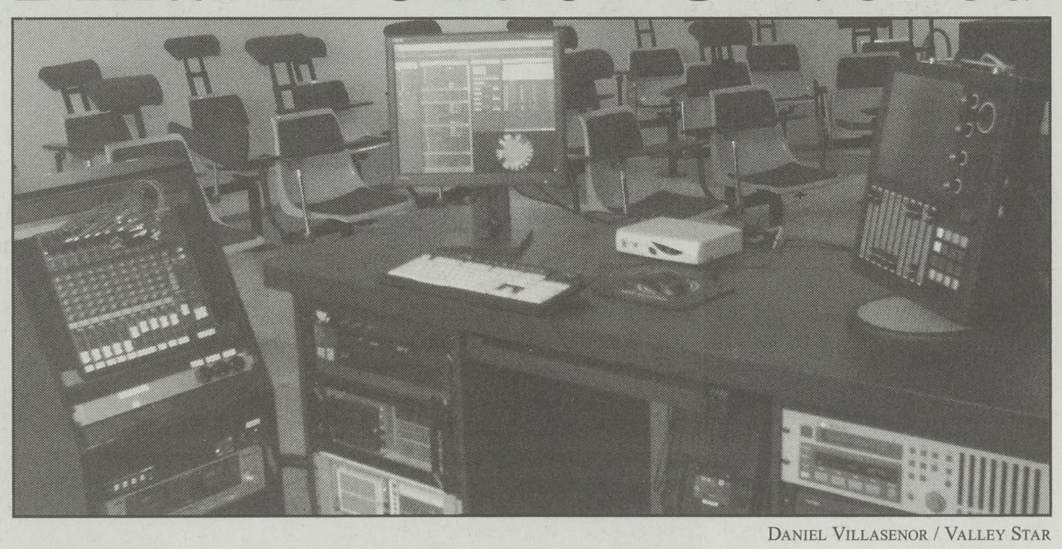
Vandals caused $200 worth of damage to the mens restrooms located in both the Business/ Journalism and Math/ Science buildings.

Each restroom had been tagged in the same manner with a blue marker reading "Free Selik" and "FSK."

This has been an on-going matter for campus officials. According to police reports, there were no witnesses and the suspect remains at large.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

Final Frontier Unveiled



DANIEL VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

HIGH TECH - Valley College can thank NASA for equipping the school with it's newely refurbished planetarium.

***Planetarium* continued from page 1**

in astronomy.

Approximately $200,000 went toward the installation of the SciDome, a digital projector, that projects images of stars on the planetarium's 24-foot-diameter dome.

The remaining $100,000 was spent purchasing planetarium shows, other equipment upgrades, funding curriculum expansion and salary increases for the professors.

The new educational resources aren't limited to Valley students alone. The surrounding community, which, according to Falk makes up about half of the participants, is invited to attend the monthly planetarium shows shows and Star Parties that are organized by the department organizes.

The goal, Falk said, is to contribute to "the visualization of science."

The grand re-opening of the Valley College Planetarium will be Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12 from 8 to 11 p.m. in the planetarium.

The event will include continuous demonstrations of the new SciDome star projector, a tornado machine sponsored by the anthropology and earth science department and a special guest speaker.

For more information call the Astronomy Group Hotline at 818-947-2335.

Double Summer Session Returns to Valley College

BY ANNA GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Valley College will resume offering a double summer session this year, increasing the number of available classes for students, after a lack of previously available funds ended the practice in 2002.

"Double summer session can be a good opportunity for Valley students, particularly for [those] transitioning from high school to college, for working people and those in four-year universities who like condensed semesters," said Richard Pfefferman, Valley's Dean of Academic Affairs. "They get to finish in five weeks."

Valley administration hopes to increase enrollment, which would ensure that the school qualifies for funding now offered by the state, according to Pfefferman. They anticipate that by offering these needed classes that more students will be attracted to the college.

"I want to take advantage of it," says 23-year-old sophomore Fernando Charles. "It's a good opportunity for people who need more classes."

Despite the obvious benefits of having more classes available during a summer semester there are still some concerns.

Valley Professor of Counseling Fay Dea advised caution, because of the accelerated nature of the classes and recommended that summer-bound students stay away from classes like English and Math, which are tough enough to pass in a regular-length semester.

"Each course moves almost three times as fast as those that are offered during fall or spring semesters," Dea said. "Students might take classes that are hard to handle in five weeks and they will end up failing or barely passing."

The two five-week semesters will run consecutively through the summer starting June 13 and July 18 respectively.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

A SPRINGING BLOOM - Flowers begin to bloom in the trees along Fulton Ave, lining Valley College.

New Family-Friendly Child Development Program is Celebrated

The Valley College Child Development Department celebrated its first "Infant and Toddle Institute" event, Friday Feb. 25.

The newly created program was developed as a training program for community child development centers, while also giving students the opportunity to intern and obtain a hands-on experience.

The Infant and Toddler Institute encourages students interested in participating in the program to contact the ITTI at 818-778-5528.

COMING UP

The Biology Department is hosting first in the three-part Science Seminar Series, Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m.- 8 p.m. at the Theater.

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Don't Touch It

BY KATHY ARELLANO - OPINION EDITOR

Who hasn't hidden money inside your wallet, vouching to not touch it, only to pull it out without a moment's hesitation to pay for a round of double lattes.

Well, the Valley College Facilities Master Plan Committee seems to be doing something like that with the $20 million that was previously earmarked for its new Media Arts building which would combine and upgrade the existing cinema, commercial music, graphic arts, media arts, journalism and photography disciplines, all the while assuring us that if the money isn't used for anything else, we can still have the facility - Yeah, right.

I think that $20-million stash is bound to be used for many other things, leaving the blueprints for future communicators moldering in a drawer.

Apparently, the construction team Valley hired for its long-awaited renovation project – has put the brakes on all work until Valley reconciles its budget.

And the only way the planning committee says it can make the numbers jive is to axe a big-ticket item, such as the Media Arts building.

Funding for the district-wide project originated with the passing of Bond measures A in April 2001 and AA in May 2003, with the stipulation that the monies be spent on restoring and improving the nine community college campuses – schools which provide education for more than 130,000 students per year and have educated more than a million people now working in 100 local communities.

This is the age of technological communication. Everyone depends heavily on media technology for information, entertainment and even our own education. Modern television stations will, by a recent FCC mandate, completely convert to high definition programming before the end of this decade, forcing non-HDTV owners to buy peripheral equipment. Imagine all the new jobs that technology will create.

Those same TV stations have websites that contain streaming digital video which has been created, edited, uploaded and managed by individuals with strong technical skills, many of which could be acquired at the community college level.

This bright new field will no doubt experience a tremendous, exponential growth in the not-too-distant future. How will Valley students compete for those jobs?

They won't, unless the Media Arts facility is built.

To prepare students to work on the cutting edge of technology, Valley planners must put a higher priority on facilities that represent that new category of learning.

So, put that money back in your wallet, FMPC - make the Media Arts building happen.

The Disrespects of Generation 'X'

BY MARILYN MINTON AND KATHY ARELLANO
STAFF WRITERS

ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

Shame on those vandals [Valley Star March 2, 2005 and Feb. 23, 2005]. They must have forgotten that time-honored conversation with their parents - the one about respecting other peoples' property and leaving things in better condition than before.

But when have kids ever really listened to their parents?

The parents' and kids' conflict of values and judgment has existed since recorded history. Every generation has been faced with bad attitudes and destructive behavior from its kids, especially when confronted with the two biggies - peer pressure and the offspring's need to belong.

The 1920s and 1930s heralded new freedom for young women. With make-up, 'bobbed' hair, shorter skirts and sleeveless blouses, girls' attention was always turned toward the flagpole-sitting, wing-tip-wearing guys who might ask them out to the drive-in movies. Kids were drinking bootleg liquor and getting into all kinds of clandestine trouble, much to their parents' distress.

The World War II-era guys flaunted their independence by swallowing goldfish and filling up phone booths with their dorm buddies. Girls in poodle skirts and dirty saddle shoes were doing a whole-lotta-shakin' and ignoring mom and pop at every turn. The old folks hated the music and thought all teens who liked it were going to h–e–double-toothpicks.

And yet, the 1930s and 1940s gave the world John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 1960s flower children wouldn't be caught dead without their bell-bottom pants, platform shoes and mood rings. Offspring were getting into dangerous drugs and unprotected sex in Haight-Asbury. The word of the day was peace, translated to mean, "Hey, man, I can do whatever I want and it's cool…"

But many in this generation sobered up when in the 1960s and 1970s, they became the property of Uncle Sam and were shipped off to Viet Nam to kill and be killed. Here at home, others were burning American flags and participating in peace rallies. Mom and dad often did not know where their kids were, much less how they were behaving.

Many kids died. Many parents cried.

As the twentieth century neared its end, teens jumped onto, and were carried aloft by the technology explosion, becoming computer literate and rapidly surpassing their parents' abilities. They had their portable, personal sound systems and many disappeared into video-game worlds, only to return at mealtimes.

In the last few years, tattoo parlors and piercing stations have become as popular a hang-out as Starbucks. Aging men and women – yes, those kids of the 1960s and 1970s - must avert their curious eyes as nubile young things pass by, sporting provocative tattoos that wriggle out from above the frayed denim band of incredibly low-slung jeans.

Kids sneer, point and laugh at the old folks. Just like they did 80 years ago.

Although the trouble kids are getting into seems much more severe than in the 1920s and 1930s, that is reflective of our new world. Life around them has changed and they've adapted.

But, just as the World War II era gave us Kennedy and King, this generation may give us folks with the cure for AIDS and cancer, all while battling their parents.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.
THIS WEEK: **ARE CELEBS GIVEN PREFERENCE IN COURT?**

■ Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com*

Stars Behind Bars

■ Judicial system is blind to fame and fortune

BY SUSAN MALTBY - NEWS EDITOR

Lawsuits are an American mainstay and celebrity trials are now major forms of real-world-style entertainment. The ratings prove it. Audiences love to watch a hero's fall from grace and a pop star's descent to disgrace. But all the talk about preferential treatment of celebrities by the legal system is just that; talk.

Media and legal watchdogs, however enamored by high-profile trials, serve an important function whenever celebrities share the spotlight with the American legal system. True flaws in the judicial system can come to light under the camera's glare.

After the O.J. verdict, many legal experts speculated about the fairness of the premise of Right of Jury Nullification - that a criminal jury has the right to acquit the defendant, regardless of the strength of the evidence. But cases where juries decide to let a defendant off the hook based on their popularity or likeability are extremely rare.

Despite mega-hype, high-priced lawyers and public interest, the judicial system is blind to fame and fortune. Laws are designed and applied equally and fairly. If not, let the appeals begin.

The difference between Joe Schmoe's day in court and a trial for the King of Pop comes down to one obvious difference. Money.

Wealth affords a stellar defendant a costly and experienced attorney, but high-priced lawyers do not a winning case make. Great lawyers with a proven reputation can charge more for their services, but all lawyers have to start at the bottom of the ladder to success.

Although lawyers may differ in skill, style and influence any decent lawyer can argue the facts and ensure that evidence and circumstances are given adequate lip service.

The system isn't perfect but for the majority of trials, convincing arguments are pretty straightforward and verdicts are fair.

Rather than special treatment, celebrities are compromised by their own fame because they can often be found guilty in the public eye before they've set foot in the courtroom.

Despite public opinion, the legal process follows a strict set of laws that are not easily prone to discrimination.

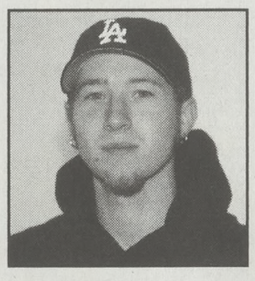
For a better understanding of the legal basics, anyone can tune into Judge Judy or the People's Court. Occasionally, even TV judges must render a verdict that may be contrary to actual justice. The right verdict under the letter of the law might be the wrong verdict from a philosophical sense of what may be righteous.

It's a bit ironic that true justice only exists in theory for stars and paupers alike. The legal system is blind, fair and impartial, but sometimes life isn't. If you don't like it, maybe you just can't handle the truth.

Campus View

Are celebrities treated differently in court proceedings?

PHOTOS BY DANIEL VILLASENOR

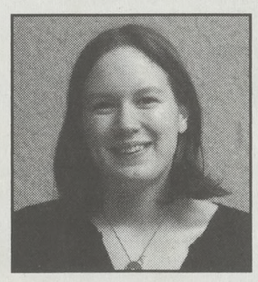


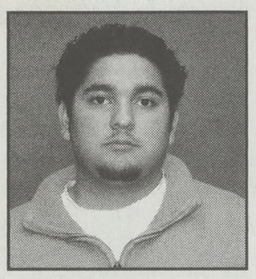
"No, why should they? They are just people."

- Jerry Schrile

"Yes, money can buy now anything, including, but not limited to your freedom."

- Alissa McGowan





"Probably, then again they have better lawyers."

- Christopher Corcios

"Yes, just because who they are. They have more leading way than other people."

- Dominica Larose

All's Fair If You Can Pay

■ All you need is cash, cash is all you need.

BY ROBERT FINKEL - SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Imagine, on the day of your court appearance, your adversary, accompanied by news cameras, press agent, fans and top-drawer lawyers was soaking up admiration from the judge and jury!

Preferential treatment for celebrities like O.J., Kobe, and presumably Michael in his upcoming trial goes hand in hand with the fascination that California, if not all America, has with the royalty of this generation - sports superstars, movie and music personalities and increasingly, their highly paid lawyers.

From an objective view of several cases that involved celebrity defendants, in almost every courtroom the power of being famous – and rich - helped the celebrity and probably got them acquitted.

The upcoming trial of pop superstar Michael Jackson on child molestation charges seems to be tempered by its central California location, but there is every liklihood that the media circus will be even more overwhelming than the Simpson trial.

Any bets on how many jurors hold out for a Jackson acquittal?

Of course, Jackson may not be guilty and prosecutor Tom Sneddon's case may be very weak, riddled with tainted witnesses.

There is no question that O.J. Simpson's enormous financial resources enabled him to hire the best legal team. The general belief that O.J. was guilty of double murder has become a joke that is now part of our pop culture. So, too his guilty verdict in civil court.

Kobe Bryant, who also spent a lot of money on attorneys, did not have to stand trial. But fans and many sports observers insisted he was innocent.

It is our constitutional guarantee to enjoy a presumption of innocence until proven guilty, but modern American courts are not aggressive in assuring this presumption. This is proven time after time by the release of hundreds of innocent 'murderers' incarcerated for years; an embarrassing situation for the American justice system, which prides itself on fairness.

Robert Downey Jr. was given four chances at rehabilitation before he was sent to prison. This is not the case with your average citizen when he is discovered sleeping and in possession of a firearm in a neighbor's spare bedroom.

Surely, no one believes that if they are represented by a public defender they will get the legal moves on the level of Cochran and Shapiro.

Yes, Martha Stewart drew a short jail term; in my opinion this was one case that was over-prosecuted. Maybe because she was a celebrity, the courts decided to make an example of her. I think it would have been better to assess a fine administratively.

Wealth and fame help in life, and it helps to get the star billing in court, too.

VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

March 4

Los Lobos
Royce Hall
Price: $50

Los Angeles Philharmonic
Walt Disney Concert Hall
Price: $50

March 5

Gilberto Santa Rosa
Kodak Theatre
Price: $75

Lea Salonga
University City
Price: $50

March 6, 2005

Golden Boys
Temecula
Price: $55

Paquita La Del Barrio
Universal City
Price: $65

March 9

Gavin Degraw with The
Wreckers
Los Angeles
Price: $96

March 10

Alison Krauss
Universal City
Price: $ 75

March 11

Of A Revolution
W. Hollywood
Price: $90

Chicago
Temecula
Price: $ 170

March 12

Los Angeles Philharmonic
Los Angeles
Price: $ 95

Me First & Gimme Gimme
West Hollywood
Price: $80

Film Night Delights Student Filmmakers

■ ISFFHollywood gives student filmmakers a platform to present their work.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The International Student Film Festival of Hollywood brought its award-winning student films to HaHa's Café last Wednesday, as part of its Film Night celebration.

The screening included short films that won in various categories at the second annual festival, Nov. 1 - 6, 2004. Movie Nights, held the last Wednesday of every month allow guests the opportunity to view the winning films and participate in a discussion with the filmmakers.

> Film Nights and the festival are a great chance for Valley students to get introduced to work done by their peers.

Robin Saban, founder and president of ISFF Hollywood said the Film Nights work on many levels. As well as serving as entertainment, "it's a great opportunity for student filmmakers to meet other filmmakers and network."

Saban said his inspiration for creating the festival was the lack of a student-specific festival in Los Angeles. "There were plenty of festivals that students could enter, but none that allowed them to compete among their peers."

Last year's festival received more than 300 entries from more than 20 countries.

Valley College student Igor Kagan thinks Film Nights and the festival are a great chance for Valley students to get introduced to work done by their peers.

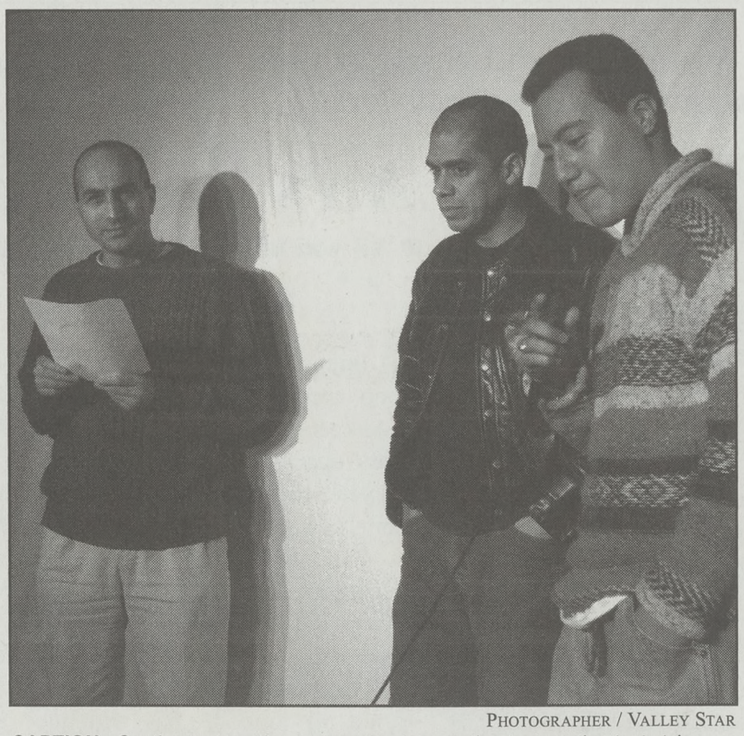
"Come once and if you like the atmosphere, come again," said Kagan, who first learned about the festival a month ago. "I found out about it and thought it would be an interesting thing to get involved with."

February's Film Night incorporated three award-winning short films with powerful messages. "Letters of the Great War" was especially moving, centering on Lloyd and Mary, a young couple torn apart by the war. Lloyd finds solace in writing letters to Mary, letters which serve as a narrative for the 13-minute film.

"Letters" Director Charles Ortiz spoke with the audience about the troubles he faced making the film – "a professional crew could make it in one month, but it took us two years because of our lack of resources" – and the positive response he's received from audiences. Ortiz is currently waiting for a response from the Cannes Film Festival.

Kevin McKenna, a Valley student who serves on the festival's board of directors, said Film Nights are a good way to get acquainted with the festival's style.

The next Film Night is March 30 at 6 p.m. at the HaHa Café at 5010 Lankershim Blvd. Admission is free.



PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR
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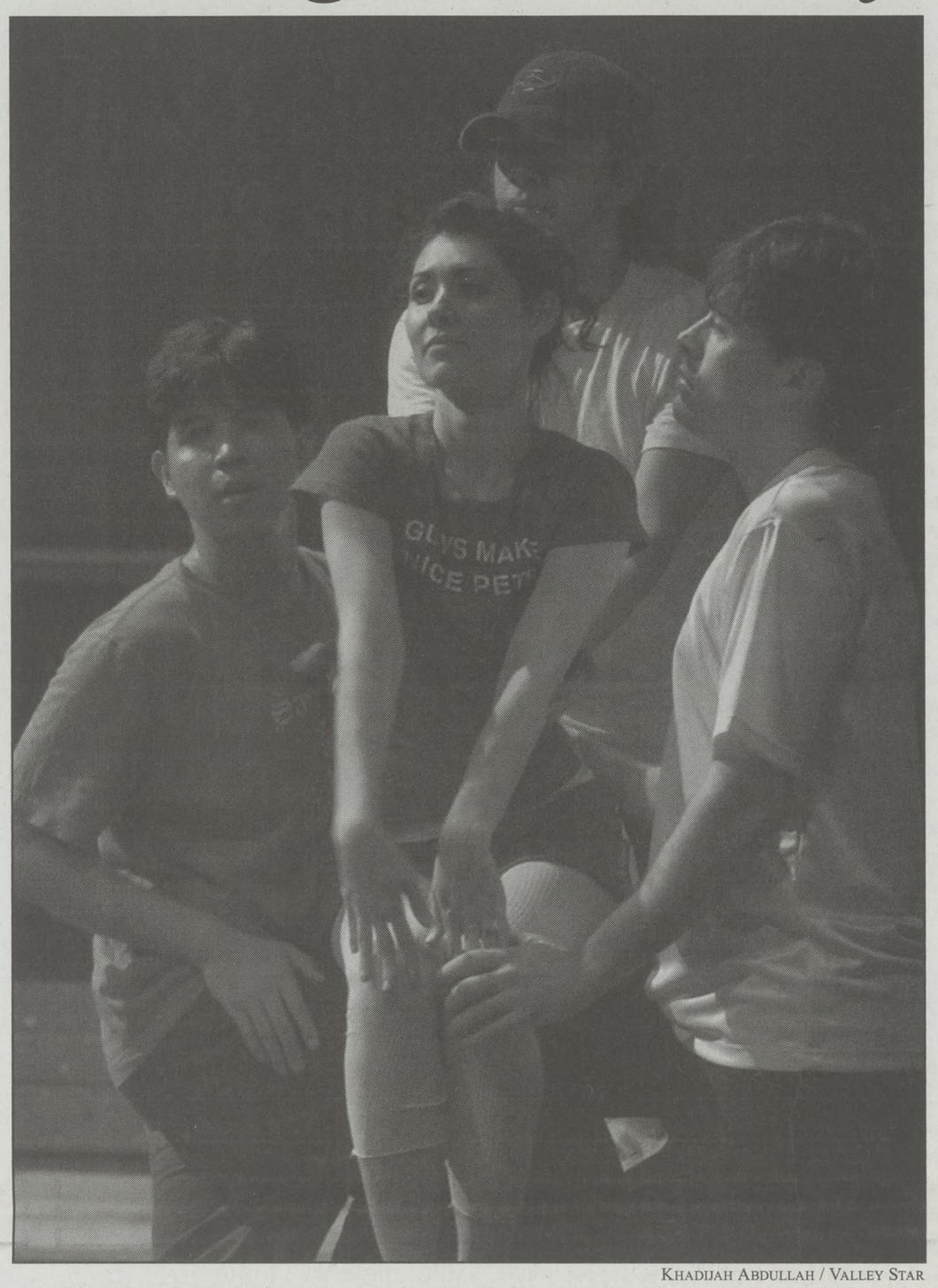
Chicago to Valley



KHADIJAH ABDULLAH / VALLEY STAR
CHICAGO - Valley College Theater Department Chair Pete Parkins has received the rights to bring the hit broadway musical "Chicago" to Valley's Mainstage Theater. Rehearsals are underway as students, including Madison Gray (center), who will play Velma, anticipate opening night in April.

Valley College Students' Time to Shine on Stage

Think you have what it takes to perform in front of a large audience during Valley College's sixth annual Fine Arts Festival? If you do then the Associated Student Union is looking for you.

Would-be musicians, artists, dancers, comedians, poets, and actors are encouraged to audition Monday, March 11, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. and Friday, March 14 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Monarch Hall.

All photography, fine arts and visual medias are due by April 1st and can be dropped off at the ASU office, Campus Center 102.

Interested students can contact Chavez at 818-947-2696.

And 2005's Oscar Winners Are...

BY KATHY ARELLANO
OPINION EDITOR

"Million Dollar Baby"

Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Director

I love a movie that allows the viewer plenty of moments to cry. In fact, I rate a movie on the number of boxes of tissue needed to mop up the tears and corral the snot. "Million Dollar Baby" was a three-boxer!

I reached for a tissue early on, when there seemed to be a glimmer of hope that Eastwood's hardened, cynical character could actually become like family to the disillusioned-but-strong-inside woman that Swank so deftly portrayed. I kept grabbing those paper repositories all the way up to the final, heart-wrenching hospital scene when I just gave up and bawled into my husband's T-shirt.

"Baby" was one of those movies that I will buy on DVD and save for an afternoon when I really need a good, cathartic sob session.

You can bet Hilary, Clint and Morgan are not crying, though. And soon, they will be laughing all the way to the bank when this gem hits the stores.

"Ray"

Best Actor, Sound Mixing

Jamie Foxx definitely earned the Best Actor award for his incredibly convincing performance as talented and troubled Ray Charles. When I learned that Foxx had to wear latex eyelid prostheses for up to 14 hours a day to achieve the authenticity of the real Ray's face, rendering him temporarily blind, I had a new appreciation for his performance in this steamy, rhythmic, abusive movie. And, I got what I came for – fantastic acting and lots of great music.

"The Aviator"

Best Supporting Actress, Cinematography, Film Editing, Costume Design, Art Direction

What a wonderful likeness Cate Blanchett has created of the great Katherine Hepburn in "The Aviator." This film was beautiful to look at with lush scenery, period-correct costumes and aerial shots that actually made me queasy. It was a new look at an eccentric, highly creative, very rich and very strange man convincingly portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio. It's definitely a must-see movie.

"The Incredibles"

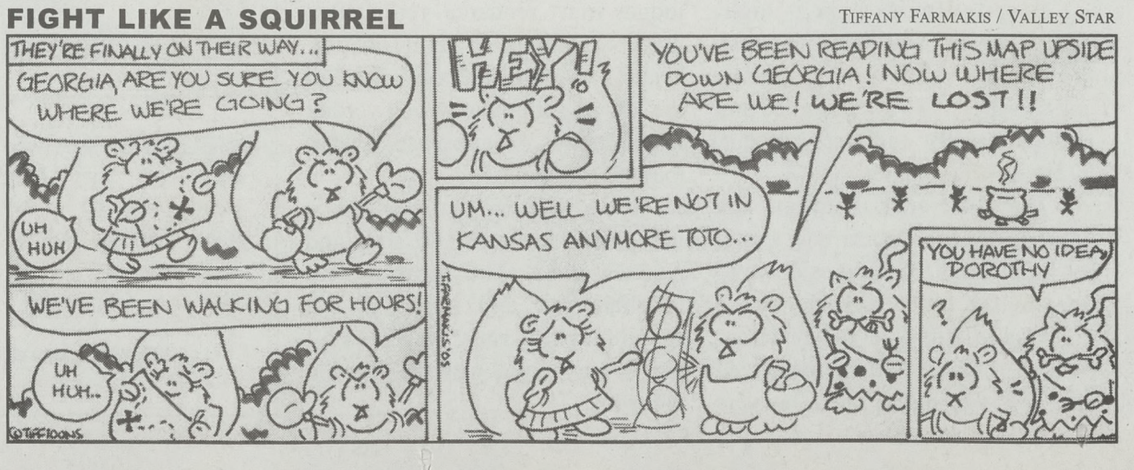
Best Animated Feature Film, Best Sound Editing

Buena Vista/Pixar has turned out another delightful animated story of an average, but incredible family of five, each trying to conform to ordinary societal mores but forfeiting their own unique identity in the process. "The Incredibles" is a great family film – not too sticky-sweet, enjoyable for all ages and with a nice message about the value of being oneself and the importance of working as a team. The CG was seamless and it was a fun flick. See it with or without the kids!

For a complete list of Oscar night winners, visit our

FIGHT LIKE A SQUIRREL

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR


THEY'RE FINALLY ON THEIR WAY...
GEORGIA, ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?
UH HUH
WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS!
UH HUH..
HEY!
YOU'VE BEEN READING THIS MAP UPSIDE DOWN GEORGIA! NOW WHERE ARE WE! WE'RE LOST!!
UM... WELL WE'RE NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE TOTO...
YOU HAVE NO IDEA, DOROTHY
TIFFANYFARMAKIS'05

'Angelides'

continued from page 1

us to pay one dime more in taxes, but he's willing to tell 25,000 young people there's no room for them in our colleges," Angelides said. "I believe in the end we will be a stronger California if more of our children go to college."

The enthusiastic crowd of more than 250 guests attending the DPSF's general assembly rallied for the Democratic Party. Among the speakers were Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa and Los Angeles Community College District Board member Mona Field.

Angelides, who plans to run against Schwarzenegger in the 2006 race for governor said that Schwarzenegger has failed the state and lied to educators.

"[Schwarzenegger] has broken his promises to this state's educators."

Angelides, who has served as California's treasurer since 1998, has been called the "Anti-Arnold" by The Los Angeles Times and brags that, "Since Schwarzenegger took office I've been proud to stand as his opposition."

"We actually have one thing in common: [Schwarzenegger] said he was inspired to enter politics by Richard Nixon. You know what? So was I," said Angelides, who, at 19 decided to go into politics after seeing a "Dump Nixon" poster on a bulletin board at Harvard, where he was studying.

While Angelides was making his pitch for the governor's title, Hahn's focused was geared toward keeping his Mayor-of-Los-Angeles title.

"This election is probably more important than others. City elections directly affect the community," said Hahn, referring to the March 8 mayoral election. "This is a city that works for everyone, not just a few people."

No matter which election sights were set, both candidates had the same message for community college students: Vote.

Political organizer Linda Vu encourages college students to recognize the effect politics has on their lives, "The [college community] has the mentality 'If I look out for myself I'll be fine,' but that's not right. Looking at the big picture shows how students are affected."

While 18-to-24-year-olds make up 14 percent of eligible voters, less than 60 percent are registered to vote and even less show up at the polls.

Vu believes motivation is what today's youth is lacking. "They need to see that what they do makes a difference."

"College students need to understand the relevance of politics within their lives," said audience member Jodi Owen.

Twenty months before the election, Angelides already has stiff competition for the governor's office. Schwarzenegger is not the only Hollywood actor in the running; actor/director Rob Reiner leads the democratic race in a Field Poll taken Feb. 8-17 with 37 percent of the vote, compared to Angelides 35 percent. Schwarzenegger, who has not announced whether he will be running for re-election, received 52 percent of the vote.

Democratic consultant Darry Sragow said Schwarzenegger's lead "is by no means safe territory for the governor.

"An appealing Democratic opponent at this point would have a very steep hill to climb, but it would be incorrect to conclude that running against Arnold in 2006 is a total fool's errand."

As a recall candidate, Schwarzenegger sold himself as a bipartisan outsider. But a Field Poll released earlier this week shows his support eroding among Democrats. No matter which candidate is matched up against Schwarzenegger, the governor still gets only 25 to 30 percent support from Democrats.

"Democrats have in large measure turned away from Arnold and are looking for a Democratic alternative," Mark DiCamillo, director of the nonpartisan poll, said in a news report.

'ASL'

continued from page 1

Gold said, "ASL classes won't be available here because that would mean expanding our curriculum; we're actually cutting some classes due to budget constraints."

Still, the demand for classes grows as more universities including Stanford, Yale, UC Berkeley and UCLA begin to accept ASL as a foreign language.

According to American Modern Language Association, in 2002 enrollment in ASL classes rose more than 400 percent from previous years, making it the fifth most commonly studied foreign language in college.

The first semester of ASL covers basic vocabulary and grammar with an emphasis on receptive skills, while incorporating aspects of the deaf culture and community. During the second semester the focus shifts to inflectional and non-manual behavior patterns and receptive and expressive communication.

ASL is a linguistically complete language with grammar and vocabulary and in no way should it be considered a 'signing' form of English. There is no universal sign language, therefore someone fluent in American Sign Language would not be able to understand Mexican Sign Language or even British Sign Language.

Despite its rapidly growing popularity, not all universities are embracing the change. USC has no plans to accept ASL as a requirement because it doesn't fit the global education goal.

"ASL is not a foreign language - it's symbols, it's gestures," said Dr. Carmen Salazar, Valley's foreign language department chair. "When studying a foreign language you study about a new culture, new ideas. ASL is a form of communication used by people with a disability"

Disputes will continue while the popularity of ASL grows.

For more information about ASL transfer qualifications, visit www. assist.org.

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AUDITIONS
March 11 FRIDAY 12pm—4pm
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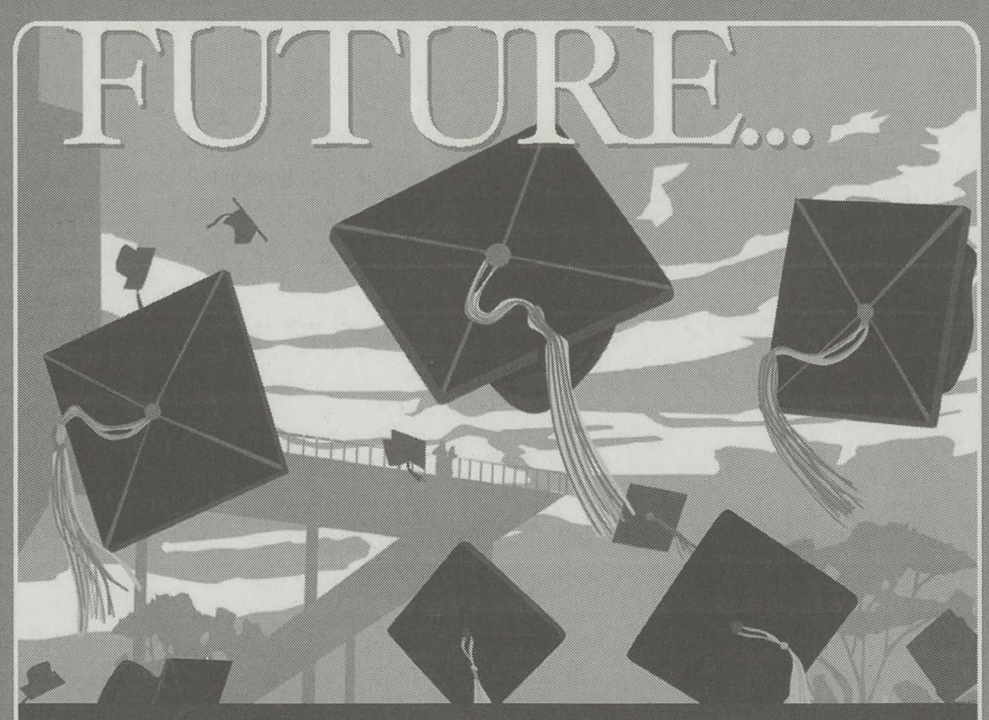
All Photography, Fine Arts, & Visual Medias due by APRIL 1st
For more info please contact:
Theresa Chavez (818) 947-2708
Campus Center 102
This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals needing sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, large print, Braille materials or any other accommodations should contact the ASU office at (818) 778-5516 as early as possible.

Run for
Student Trustee 2005-2006
Responsible for:
- Representing student interests at the district level by attending bi-weekly Board of Trustees meetings.
- Acting as a liaison between the Board of Trustees and students by chairing monthly Student Affairs meeting with ASU presidents
Deadline: Monday, March 14, 2005
Pick up an application in the Associated Student Union Office (Campus Center 102) or download from www.lavc.edu/StudentServWebsite/ASU/index.html
For more information call: (818) 778-5516
ASU Working For You!

For more stories and photos
visit our website at
www.lavalleystar.com



The path you choose today can lead to tomorrow's success.
State Compensation Insurance Fund
If you're ready to apply your knowledge and skills in the post-graduation job market, then toss your hat in with State Fund.
State Fund, the leading workers' compensation insurance carrier in California, is interested in graduates seeking opportunity and stability. We offer a wide range of positions throughout California, plus an environment that will foster your continued growth.
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Learn how you can join us by visiting www.scif.com or by contacting Human Resources at 415-565-1722. Then launch your career with State Fund and rise to new heights.
Career opportunities may be available in:
- Marketing
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State Fund is an equal opportunity employer.

Los Angeles Valley College 26th annual
5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, 91401
For More information call 818-947-2334
Job Fair
Wednesday, March 16
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Monarch Square
(Monarch Hall in case of rain)
Dress for success. Bring your resume.
Dress for success. Bring your resume.
County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Make A Difference In Your Community!
GALPIN Ford
The Help Group
Providence | Health System
Telesis Community Credit Union
Universal Protection Service
provider of security solutions

Stars of the Week

Alma Palacios won 800-meter with a time of 2:34:02 on Saturday at Cerritos College.

Jorge Olmedo struk out eight, allowed no walks and eight hits on Saturday against Mission.

Amanda Salazar Hit a homerun on Monday aganist Moorpark.

Jenny Portillo Broke Valley's pole vault record with a jump of 8 feet 6 inches.

Jon Knarreborg won the 200-meter with a time of 0:23:22 on Saturday at Cerritos College

Pauline Morquecho Allowed only two hits during a five-inning game on Monday against Moorpark College.

LAVC SCORES

Basbal vs. Mission
(W 2-0) 2/26/05
Baseball Record: 1-0, 6-4

Softball vs. Moorpark
(W 8-0) 2/28/05
Softball Record: 3-7-1

Swimming vs Ventura
(L-ended early due to lightening) Swimming Record: 0-1
2/25/05

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/2/05
Softball @ Santa Ana 2:00 p.m.
Baseball @ Oxnard 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 3/3/05
Baseball vs Bakersfield 2:00 p.m.
Softball @ Chaffey 2:00 p.m.

Friday 3/4/05
Swimming @Mt. SAC Relays
Track & Field @ WSC #3

Saturday 3/5/05
Swimming @Mt. SAC Relays

Sunday 3/6/05
Baseball @ Bakersfield 2:00 p.m.

Monday 3/7/05
Softball @ Rio Hondo 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday 3/8/05
Softball @ Santa Barbara 2:00 p.m.
Baseball @ Glendale

Wednesday 10/20/04
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCORES

NBA

New York def. LA Lakers (117-115)

Utah def. LA Clippers (87-86)

San Antonio def. Cleveland (94-92)

Dallas def. New Orleans (90-86)

Memphis def. Goleden State (99-97)

Monarch Baseball is Back for Good ?

■ **The Monarchs shut down rival Mission College with 2-0 victory on Saturday.**

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Monarchs Baseball team won its first conference game of the season with a 2-0 victory over rival Mission College on Saturday. The triumph brings the team 1-0 conference and 6-4 over all.

It was the first time for the Monarchs' new head coach Dave Mallas to face his former team, who he coached until this season.

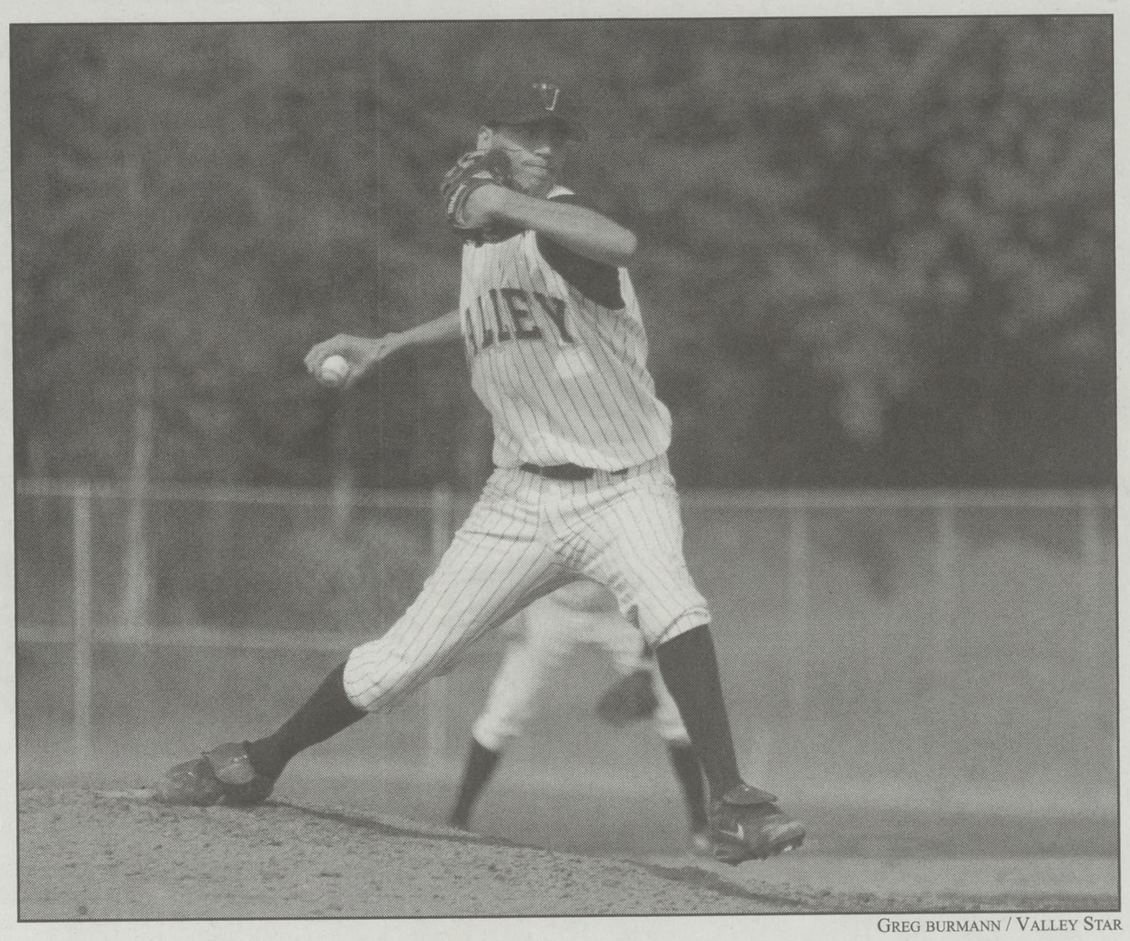
"It was exciting and fun," said Mallas. "Mission was my first coaching job as a head coach and I thank that program for giving me that opportunity."

It was the Monarchs' returning pitcher Jorge Olmedo who pitched nine solid innings while striking out eight, allowing no walks and only eight hits during a nine-inning game.

"It feels real good to be winning once again," said Olmedo. "It is Coach Dave's efforts that brought us to victory once again. I am excited about our season."

While Mallas understands it is merely the beginning of the season, he points out there is a lot of room for improvement.

"We got an outstanding amount of help from Jorge Olmedo, which caused [Mission's] offense to claps early," said Mallas. "We had couple of good opportunities to open the game up, but we weren't able to take advantage of them."



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

BRINGING THE HEAT - The Monarchs' pitcher Jorge Olmedo lead Valley to a 2-0 victory over Mission College with 8 strike outs and 8 hits during a nine inning game.

While Monarchs had a great defense, the offense was not as impressive. During the second half of the game, the Monarchs had three chances to score big when they had full bases, but they missed all three times in easy outs.

Never the less, this was a big improvement for the Monarchs' baseball team that had a record of 5-98 during the last three seasons.

"We are looking good once again, but we still need to get better on the bat," said sophomore DJ Lewis. "But we are just getting started."

Coach Mallas is not the only one new to Monarchs' baseball. Most of the players on the team are Mallas' players who followed him from Mission in hopes to win the league championship this season.

This win marked a big return for the Monarchs – a team that's been struggling the last few seasons. With three new coaches on the field, including the head coach, the team is off to an optimistic start this season.

Monarchs Hit Stride at Recent Meet

■ **Monarch Track and Field returns strong.**

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs' Track and Field team is back after a successful meet at the invitational held at Cerritos College Saturday.

With about 40 schools competing from the Central Valley to San Diego, the Monarchs broke a school record in pole vault while other ninety percent of the Monarchs' Track and Field athletes broke their personal records in the early stages of the track season.

"This is still an early meet and we are pretty happy with the results," said Head Coach Francois Wolman.

Freshman pole vaulter Jenny Portillo broke the school record by vaulting 8'6". Women's division athlete-of-the-week Alma Palacios won the 800-meter heat with a time of 2: 34.02.

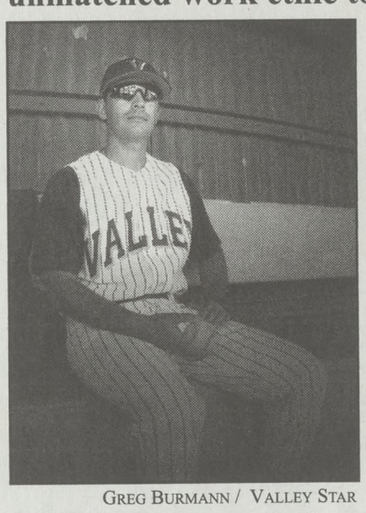
Men's division athlete-of-the-week Jordan Castellanos ran a strong race in both the 800-and 1500 meter.

"We have many athletes doing multiple events so it's exciting to see almost every event filled at a track meet."

The Monarchs next meet is at Moorpark College on March 4 at 2 p.m.

Mallas to the Rescue

■ **Former L.A. Mission coach brings success and unmatched work ethic to Valley**



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

BIG PLAYER - Monarch Head Coach Dave Mallas guides the Monarchs to victory.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

After the Monarchs finished the 2004 baseball season with a horrific 1-24 record, everyone agreed that changes needed to be made. As Valley College head coach Chris Johnson made his way out, Mission College Head Coach Dave Mallas was on his way in.

Leaving a very good Eagle team that finished 22-13 in 2004, Mallas was brought in to help the Monarchs that had a 5-98 record over the past three seasons, according to the Commission of Athletics website.

Anyone looking at Mallas' situation might view the move as quite a disadvantage.

"I think that the opportunity to come and have control over your own baseball field was a key factor for me coming to Valley," explained Mallas whose Mission team played at El Cariso Park.

"Being able to play when we wanted, having control over who plays on our field and for how long was a tremendous plus for me," said Mallas.

Mallas won a state championship in his sophomore year at Rancho Santiago Community College in 1995 and continued his winning ways at Cal State Chico where he won a state championship in 1997.

During his time at Rancho Santiago, Mallas considered becoming a full-time coach.

"Thinking about what I wanted to do with coaching, I realized that being out on the field every day in shorts seemed like a great occupation," said Mallas. "I also have so much love for the game of baseball and wanting to help players drove me to coach."

"My long-term goal is to get this team back on the map," said Mallas. "I want to make Valley one of the strongest baseball programs in the state."

Stating that a complete turnaround in just one season is very hard, Mallas' focus will be to put a competitive product on the field.

"Since Valley is a much bigger school and values athletics very highly, I want to be an example for my players and improve their work ethic," stated Mallas.

Mallas' optimism and intense work ethic has made believers out of his players as the Monarchs have already amassed a 1-0 conference and 6-4 overall record in the early stages of the season.

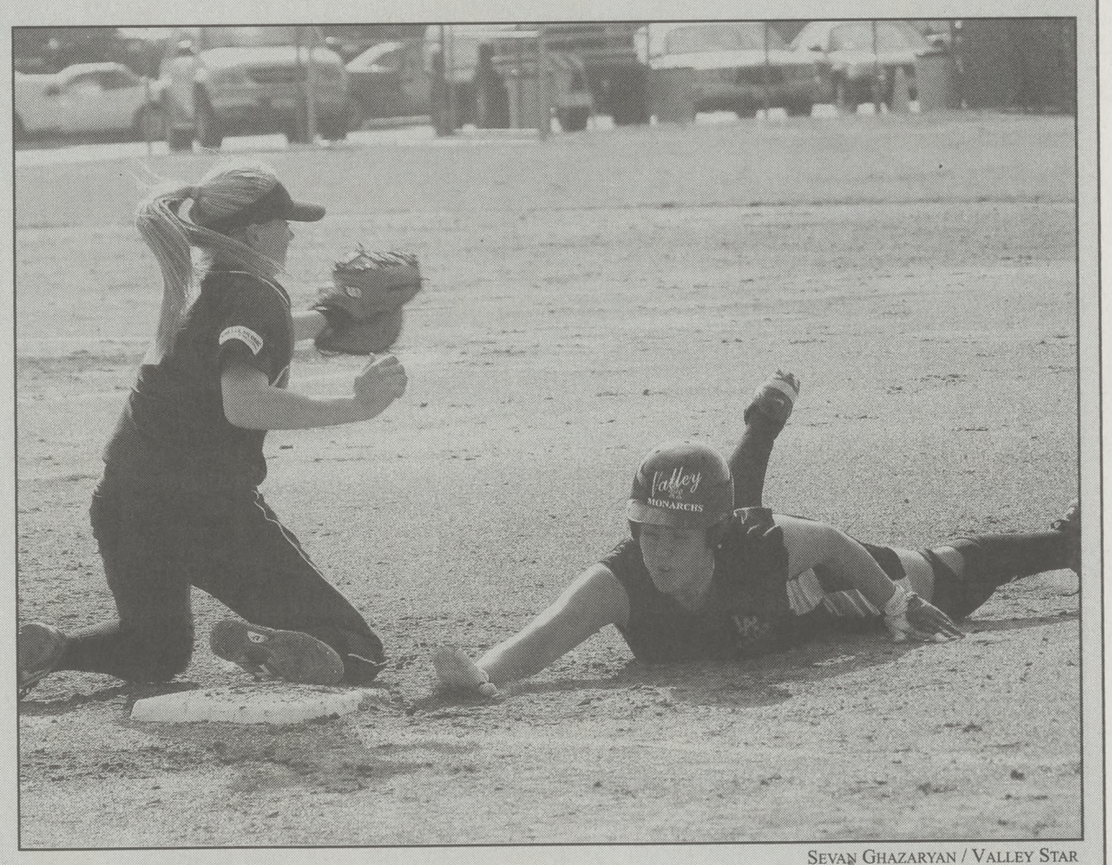
"We're actually winning this season," said sophomore pitcher Jorge Olmedo. "We're working together as a team and it's great."

"The work ethic that [Mallas] brings to the table is amazing," said sophomore outfielder D.J. Lewis, who transferred from the University of Arizona. "Everyone's coming to practice an hour early and that shows how much of an impact he has on this team."

"I personally came to Valley to follow coach," said sophomore pitcher Eddie Baeza. "He's doing a great job and I believe that he can get us in the playoffs this season."

Monarchs Pound Moorpark

■ **The Lady Monarchs had an overwhelming victory The Raiders Moorpark on Monday.**



SEVAN GHAZARYAN / VALLEY STAR

SQUEEZE IN - Lady Monarch Lorena Arreguin 13, avoids a pick off attempt by Kellye Harper 7, of Cuesta College.

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Monarchs softball defeated the Moorpark Raiders with 8-0 victory on Monday, with the game ending during the fifth inning on the mercy rule.

"We got out with a good start and finished it even better," said Valley catcher Lorena Arreguin. "There was a lot of communication during this game."

The game started on a good note as Valley pitcher Pualine Morquecho allowed no hits during the first inning.

Just as the Monarchs got started with the offense, Amanda Salazar hit a home run and got two RBIs during the first inning as the Lady Monarchs scored the first two runs of the game.

In the top of the fourth inning, Morquecho kept Moorpark scoreless. The Lady Monarchs' scoring marathon came during the bottom of the fourth inning, scoring six runs on eight hits.

"It was good that everyone got to hit the ball," said Deyssy Esquivel. "We played our game during the fourth inning."

The Lady Monarchs have much potential this season if the team continues playing the way during it did this game.

It is the team's confidence that brings all the girls together, during the long hours of workout during the season, according to Arreguin.

"We are looking forward go all the way to state," said Arreguin. "We have been working harder than other team around here."

Monarchs' Softball
Western State Conference
Upcoming Schedule

Opponent	Date	Time
Chaffey	3/3	3 p.m.

'Monk'

continued from page 1

name was changed from Janaka Hemachandra to the name that now appears on his cherished driver's license.

After passing his driving test, Hemaratana was eager to get on the road. "The high priest from my country sent me some money to help out with my first car, an '85 Buick Century. Transmission problems led the car to the junk yard."

Soon afterwards, Hemaratana purchased his second car, a 1988 Mercedes Benz, which he drove for two years until he could afford the car he now drives, a brand new 2004 Toyota Corolla.

"I don't know why monks can't drive in Sri Lanka," said Hemaratana. "Most people go by bus. The transportation system there is very good."

With plans to graduate with an A.A. in psychology, Hemaratana has attended Valley for the past three years. Since 2003, he's been working at Valley's Learning Center welcoming students and helping them find tutoring resources.

Kristie Humphries, instructional assistant, said that it's always a pleasure to go into the office and see him working behind the counter. "He started out as a student of mine and when he asked for a job I was happy to offer him the position," said Humphries. "He's patient and reliable. He's also got the greatest laugh," she said. "I know one of the reasons he has a job is to pay for his car and stuff."

Unlike many other college guys his age, Hemaratana doesn't use his driving privileges to go cruisin' for babes.

"Someday I'll be a high priest but I can't get married. If I got married I would be disrobed and banned from the temple," said Hemaratana. "If I meet the right girl, yeah I'd consider leaving the priesthood, but I'm not sure if I'll find someone like that."

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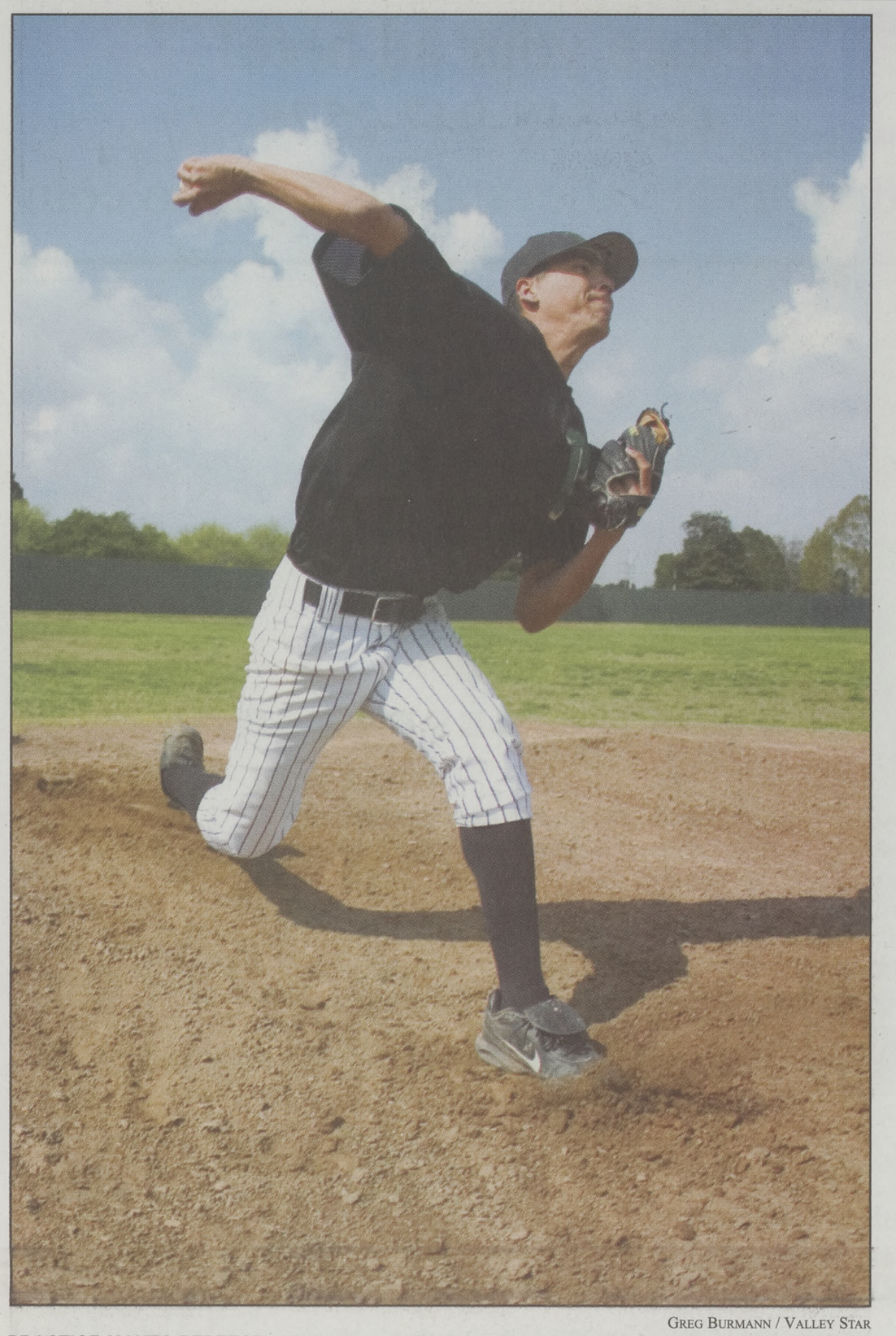
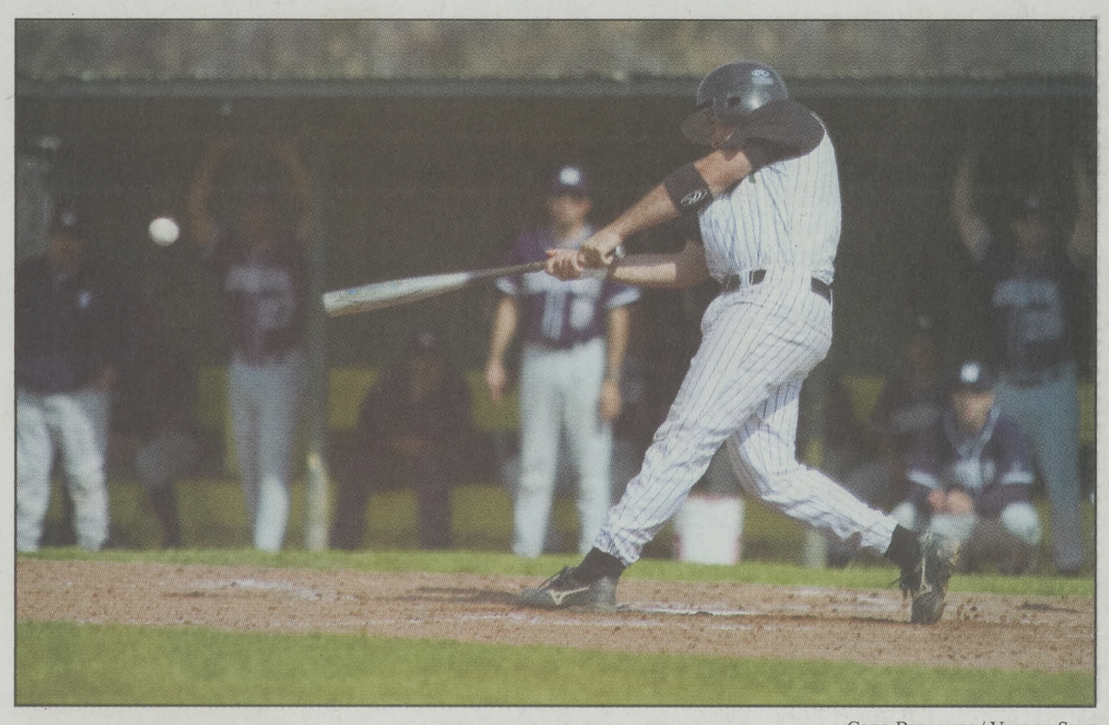


GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - Monarchs pitcher Jorge Olmedo warms up in pre-game exercises before facing the Mission College Eagles.

The Comeback Kids

Layout and Photos by
Greg Burmann
Text By
Zabie Mansoory



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

STRIKING IT HARD - Monarch infielder Raul Perez knocks a pitch for a single.

The Monarch baseball team, which had a 5-98 record during the last three seasons, has a good start after winning its first conference game of the season against Mission College 2-0.

"We've got an exciting season ahead of us," said Head Coach Dave Mallas. "I want to make Valley one of the strongest baseball programs in the state."

Winning would not have been possible without the help of returning pitcher Jorge Olmedo, who pitched nine solid innings, with eight strike outs, no walks and eight hits.

"We have been working hard this season," said Olmedo. "We are off to a much better start this season."

Mallas' hard workouts and dedication to improve his team might help to rescue the baseball program at Valley.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

MAKING A PLAN - Monarch pitcher Jorge Olmedo and pitching coach George Vranau discuss a strategy to close out the ninth inning.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

REFLECTING BACK - Monarch Head Coach Dave Mallas expresses his views about their victory and how they can improve upon their current play.

GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

THE PAYOFF - Monarch players celebrate their victory against Mission College.